

REMARKS

Support for Claims 6-12 is as follows:

The top layer, or topsheet 28, is described in the first full paragraph on page 9. As described in this paragraph, it can comprise thermoplastic material and it may be in the form of an apertured, or perforated, film.

The top layer may comprise an upper layer of thermoplastic synthetic resinous material and a lower layer of thermoplastic synthetic fibers which are more hydrophilic than the upper layer. The "fiber-entangled film" described beginning on the first full paragraph of page 10 is one non-limiting structure which has these characteristics.

The acquisition layer 34 described beginning on page 12 of the specification may also comprise the lower layer of a liquid permeable top layer (as described in the first full paragraph on the top of page 14 of the specification). "[T]he second component [the underlying acquisition layer] could be part of another component, such as part of the topsheet, part of the core, or part of some other component."

The third full paragraph on page 16 of the specification states that the fibers of the acquisition layer may be inherently hydrophilic, and that the hydrophilicity of these fibers allows the acquisition layer to draw liquid exudates through the topsheet from below. Thus, the acquisition layer can be more hydrophilic than the topsheet.

The paragraph that begins at the bottom of page 16 of the specification describes the fact that the acquisition layer may be comprised of thermoplastic synthetic fibers.

Page 19 of the specification describes the fact that the topsheet may be fused to the acquisition layer by intermittent bonds.

Page 20, third full paragraph of the specification describes the fact that sanitary napkin, and thus the top layer of the same, has a central zone, longitudinal central region 46, and side zones, longitudinal side regions 48. As shown in the drawings, the central zone 46 can be thicker than the side zones 48.

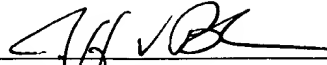
The subject matter in the dependent claims is described at other places in the specification.

Claims 6-12 were substantially copied from claims 1 and 3-7 of U.S. Patent 5,746,729 issued to Wada, et al.

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